

Wilt
CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Tabular Statistics
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

Table 1—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

| Year. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | Births. | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | Transferable Deaths. | | Nett Deaths Belonging to the District. | | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------|---------|--|---------|----------------------|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | Un-corrected number. | Nett. | | Number. | Rate. | of Non-Residents Registered in the District. | of Residents not Registered in the District. | Under 1 Year of Age. | | At all Ages. | |
| | | | Number. | Rate. | | | | | Number. | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1909 | 17885 | 400 | 400 | 22.30 | 262 | 14.64 | 6 | 1 | 35 | 87.5 | 257 | 14.36 |
| 1910 | — | 409 | 409 | 22.8 | 217 | 12.3 | 6 | 8 | 38 | 92.6 | 219 | 12.24 |
| 1911 | 18244 | 394 | 394 | 21.5 | 260 | 14.2 | 8 | 17 | 38 | 96.4 | 269 | 14.7 |
| 1912 | — | 366 | 366 | 20.6 | 183 | 10.03 | 6 | 22 | 16 | 43.7 | 199 | 10.9 |
| 1913 | — | 336 | 336 | 18.4 | 190 | 10.4 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 38.6 | 200 | 11.5 |
| 1914 | 17793 | 348 | 348 | 19.5 | 230 | 12.9 | 8 | 11 | 21 | 60.3 | 233 | 13.0 |

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 56,543.

Total population at all ages, 17,793 }
Total families or separate occupiers, 4479 } at census 1911.

Table 2—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District | | | | | Total cases Removed to Hospital |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----|----------------|--|--------------------|----------|-----|--|---------------------------------|
| | At all Ages. | AT AGES—Years. | | | | | | | | Chip'am Rural. | Castle Combe. | Christian Malford. | Corsham. | | | |
| | | Under 1 year. | 1 & under 5 years. | 5 & under 15 years. | 15 & under 25 years. | 25 & under 45 years. | 45 & under 65 years. | 65 and upwards. | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | 18 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 13 | | |
| Erysipelas | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 33 | ... | 8 | 22 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 7 | ... | 19 | 18 | | |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 22 | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | 13 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 8 | 4 | ... | | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 8 | ... | 1 | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | | |
| TOTALS | 90 | 1 | 11 | 38 | 11 | 17 | 9 | 3 | 32 | 13 | 11 | 34 | 31 | | | |

Table 3—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | Nett Deaths at subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District. | | | | | | | Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District. | |
|---|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|-----|
| AT ALL AGES. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 2 years. | 2 and under 5 years. | 5 and under 15 years. | 15 and under 25 years. | 25 and under 45 years. | 45 and under 65 years. | 65 and upwards. | | |
| All causes (certified) | 233 | 21 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 48 | 126 | 30 |
| Measles | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria and Croup | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Influenza | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | ... |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 3 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 27 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 1 |
| Organic Heart Disease | 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 12 | 16 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 23 | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 14 | ... |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 11 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 5 | ... |
| Other diseases of respiratory organs | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth | 5 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide | 6 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Other Defined Diseases | 88 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 13 | 65 | 15 |
| Totals | 233 | 21 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 48 | 126 | 30 |

Table 4—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | Under 1 week. | 1 to 2 weeks. | 2 to 3 weeks. | 3 to 4 weeks. | Total under 4 weeks. | 1 to 3 months. | 3 to 6 months. | 6 to 9 months. | 9 to 12 months. | Total Deaths under 1 year. |
|--|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All causes (certified) | | 6 | 2 | 1 | ... | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Convulsions | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 |
| { Diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 |
| { Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gastritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Injury at Birth | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital Malformations—Premature Birth | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Other causes | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Totals | | 6 | 2 | 1 | ... | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 |

Nett Births in the Year { legitimate, 346.
illegitimate, 2.

Nett Deaths in the Year of { legitimate infants, 20.
illegitimate infants, 1.

CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

The Tables I have just read to you are issued by the Local Government Board, but they contain such accurate details of vital statistics that little is left for me to dilate upon. I submit my report on rather different lines, according to instructions received from the Local Government Board.

Physical Features of District. *General condition of population—Chief occupations, and their influence on public health.*

The district is composed of small towns and populous villages. It is generally hilly and in parts well wooded. There are some streams running through, including the river Avon, which supply drinking water for cattle. The surface soil is either loam or gravel, overlaying corn brash or Oxford clay. The occupations of the inhabitants are chiefly husbandry; the only manufactures being paper at Slaughterford, brushes at Corsham, soap and the great stone works at Box. None of these occupations affect the health of the inhabitants. The population is 18,244.

Poor Law Relief. I am informed that the indoor Poor Law Relief amounts to £2285, out-door £2,444 per annum for the whole Union.

Hospital. There is a Cottage Hospital at Chippenham into which suitable cases are admitted from the parishes around; a small charge is usually made. Fifty-five cases were admitted from the Rural District last year. This Hospital has been exceedingly useful for the treatment of Children's throats. During the year 29 operations were performed for the removal of tonsils and adenoids. I am sure the County School Medical Officer will be pleased with this, as throat diseases are often the cause of ailments which render School attendance irregular.

Epileptic Home. There is also at Kington St. Michael a small Cottage Home, managed by a Committee, for the reception of epileptic women and girls, there is accommodation for 14. It is wonderful the improvement that takes place in some of the patients; the

happy, uneventful life, with suitable occupations, and the total absence of the discipline necessary in large institutions, seems to be the cause of this improvement in the condition of the patients. In most cases a grant is made for the maintenance of the patient from the Board of Guardians of the Union to which the patient is chargeable.

Incidence of Disease. *Prevalence of, and control over, acute Infectious Disease.*

During the past year 33 cases of scarlatina were notified; of these 18 only entered the Isolation Hospital. This is a matter for serious consideration, as the cases treated at home, even if they are mild, are liable to spread the disease amongst their friends and neighbours. This was illustrated at Box last year; few cases entered the Hospital, and the disease kept cropping up most months of the year.

There were 18 cases of diphtheria; of these, 13 entered the Isolation Hospital. Inspections of the houses and their surroundings were made by myself and Mr. Rhodes; all defaults were, as far as possible, removed, and the infected rooms were disinfected. At West Tytherton the children attended the same school as the East Tytherton children; this school is in the Calne Rural District. At Stanton a mother, no doubt, contracted the disease from her son, both entered the Isolation Hospital by the advice of Dr. Barnes; the disease did not spread. The cases occurring in the Chippenham Without District were mostly found in families where the children attended St. Paul's School in the Chippenham Urban District. Both Dr. Tubb Thomas and myself are satisfied that the school itself is not at fault; the district in the neighbourhood of the school has been most carefully (and on several occasions) inspected by myself and Mr. Adams, the town surveyor.

Since August 1st a considerable number of soldiers have passed through your District; there also has been a certain number of Belgian refugees; these latter have been housed and cared for by private and public effort. In no instance has any infectious or contagious disease been traced to either of these bodies.

Tuberculosis. Thirty cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. A small proportion of these were treated privately, either at home or abroad; all were notified to Dr. Tubb Thomas, County M.O.H.

The County Council has arranged a Scheme for the treatment of insured and uninsured persons in the County, with the necessary Dispensaries, Sanatoria beds, and beds for advanced cases. The details have not yet been completely settled.

There was no special or general inquiry.

Sanitary Inspection of the District. During the past year I inspected, with Mr. Rhodes, all the more important towns and villages, also those localities where infectious disease was or had been present, sewerage outfalls, and other localities where there were conditions possibly threatening health. As a result, a considerable number of nuisances and unhealthy conditions were brought to light; some were disposed of by Mr. Rhodes, others were brought before you, or the Committee charged with carrying out the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act.

Cottages. Sixteen houses for the working classes have been completed during the past year, and three more are nearing completion—

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|---|
| Chippenham Without | 4 | Corsham | ... | 1 |
| Box | ... | Christian Malford | ... | 2 |
| Lacock | ... | Biddestone | ... | 2 |
| Hardenhuish | ... | Langley Burrell | ... | 2 |

Fourteen cottages have been enlarged—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|--------|-----|---|
| Corsham | ... | 4 | Box | ... | 2 |
| Kington Langley | ... | 1 | Lacock | ... | 3 |
| Hardenhuish | ... | 1 | Seagry | ... | 2 |
| Biddestone | ... | 1 | | | |

370 inspections were made, including inspections on general sanitary matters, bakehouses, factories and workshops, slaughter-houses, offensive trades and waste water inspections. 118 visits were paid to the various sewage outfalls.

262 building inspections. 40 certificates of completion of buildings. 87 dairies, cowsheds, and milk shops. 1067 inspections under the Housing Act. 4 statutory notices were served. 5 statutory notices were complied with, including one outstanding from last year. 60 informal notices were served. 51 informal notices complied with. 9 informal notices outstanding.

Milk Supply. *Its character and wholesomeness—condition of dairies and milkshops—what is done in regard to tuberculous milk.*

There are seventeen retailers of milk registered, the premises of all have been inspected. In all cases the whole of the milk was produced in England, and was good in quality and carefully treated before sale; as regards the retail milk trade only a small business can be done by any one milk seller, as the populations of the towns and villages are small and scattered. Besides the milk which is re-tailed, the milk industry is the most important industry in your district; for many years past we have had the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Milk Company dealing with a very large quantity of milk for manufacturing purposes, they employ their own inspector, who visits the

farms supplying them with milk. The Wiltshire Farmers Milk Company also deal with a considerable quantity of milk, some of which they send to London for retail purposes, the remainder is manufactured into cheese ; upon inspection I found both establishments in good order, both were supplied with town water, and have wells of their own. They also employ a dairy inspector of their own. No separation is practised.

During the past year a strong effort has been made to get the cowsheds, milkshops and dairies more under your immediate control. There are approximately 400 cow keepers in the district, of which 70 are registered.

Other Foods. *What action has been taken under the Food and Drugs Act—what is the condition of the premises where the food is stored—condition of slaughterhouses.*

There are important butchers' shops in Corsham, Box and Lacock, where an extensive business is carried on. There are smaller establishments in the villages. All were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and were for the most part found to be well kept, clean and in good order. No carcase has been condemned during the past year in consequence of tuberculosis. In conjunction with the police, your officers take all possible care to prevent the sale of unwholesome meat. I frequently examine the contents of carts hawking meat and fish in the outlying portions of the district. No action has been taken or needed under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. No action has been taken or needed under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

Water Supply. *Kington St. Michael*—The attention of your Board was called by the Local Government Board to the want of water in this village. For some weeks last summer there was nearly a water famine. It is to be hoped that the correspondence now passing between your Board and Sir Audley D. Neeld's trustees will end in some definite plan being adopted, and that the water now flowing to waste at Allington will be brought to this village, where it is so sorely needed.

Moor Green, Westwells and Velley, in the Corsham district—Here, again, is a district where water is both defective in quality and quantity. The Corsham Parish Council are working with you, and hope to be able to arrange an extension from the Corsham Water Company's mains to these villages.

The following towns and villages are now well supplied with water: Corsham, Box, Lacock, Kington Langley, Christian Malford, Stanley, Biddestone, Chippenham Without, parts of Hardenhuish, Burton, and Langley Burrell. These supplies are from either public or private mains ; in Corsham there is a Water Company.

River and Streams. There is no pollution of the river or streams which affect the public health; no doubt there is pollution in places.

Sewerage and Drainage. *Condition of sewers and house drains—methods of sewage disposal.*

Chippenham Without, Corsham, Box, Lacock, Kington St. Michael and Castle Combe have systems of sewerage of importance. In Corsham two systems are worked, one has been in use some years; the second is a smaller system, it is of recent construction.

The Corsham sewage works, part of which is very old, will require attention during the summer months. Filter beds should be installed and the liquid fluid treated by them.

Pound Pill (Corsham) Works. The septic tank has been cleaned out and the filter beds charged with fresh filtering medium, the effluent is satisfactory.

Box Outfall. The sewage here is treated on very primitive lines, the overflow from the catch-pits runs direct into the brook.

Lacock. Here the sewage is treated by a series of catch pits, the effluent running direct into the stream. The catch-pits are cleared out every quarter; the effluent in this case receives no land treatment,

During the past year the following new drains were constructed: 138 yds. 6 in. sewer with manhole at Upper Seagry; 678 yds. 6 in. sewer with ten manholes and flushing chamber at Corsham.

Privies and Water Closets. In some of the private houses in parts of Corsham, Box, Lacock and Chippenham Without there are a certain number of water closets, but most of the houses are supplied with earth closets, and there are some old-fashioned vaults in use. About 800 each of the latter are to be found throughout the district.

Excrement Disposal and Scavenging. Corsham has its house refuse removed under a contract; in all about 500 houses are dealt with, about 400 loads of refuse are moved annually.

Schools. *Their sanitary condition—water supply—action taken in regard to scholars.*

The public elementary schools were inspected by me, most of them have a sufficient water supply. If there has been any outbreak of infectious disease among the scholars of any schools, the school buildings are thoroughly disinfected before the school re-opens. The medical inspection of the school children is carried out by the Medical Officers of the County Educational Authority.

Housing. For carrying out the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, your Council elected a Committee under the

chairmanship of the Rev. J. Thomas, they meet once a month. The condition of a considerable number of houses was brought before their notice by the Inspector. 500 houses were inspected under this Act.

Article V. Housing and Town Planning Act. The provisions of this Act are carried out in your district by a Committee of twelve, selected by you and presided over by the Rev. J. Thomas, meetings are held once a month, and are attended by myself and Mr. R. T. Rhodes, Sanitary Inspector.

The provisions of the Public Health Act are enforced by the Council, who meet once a month; these meetings are also attended by myself and Mr. Rhodes.

Much of the sanitary work last year consisted of improving rural dwellings. 500 houses were reported to your Committee.

The number of dwellinghouses inspected under and for the purposes of Sec. 17 of the Act 1909, were 250.

The number of dwellinghouses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation were 407. 93, on inspection, were found to be in good order.

The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders were 5.

The number of closing orders made were 3. The remaining cases are dealt with as follows: As to one, the Council has now issued a closing order; the other house will be vacated as soon as the new cottage is ready (this is now being built),

The number of dwellinghouses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders were 122.

Total number of houses suitable for occupation by the working classes, which have been completed or first occupied since 1st January, 1914—31st December, 1914, 9.

The general character of the defects found to exist were dampness inside and outside, defective drains, defective roofs, insufficient closet accommodation, insanitary surroundings, houses dirty and untidy with rooms badly ventilated with fixed windows which could not be opened.

Isolation Hospital. This Hospital is worked jointly by the Chippenham Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities. The Committee of Management is composed of fourteen members, two appointed by the County Council, four by the Urban and eight by Rural Authorities. Mr. Alderman Beaven is Chairman. The Committee meet once a month. The accommodation is sufficient. During the past year 71 patients have been admitted into the Hospital, 52 cases of Diphtheria and 19 cases of Scarlatina. Of the Diphtheria cases, 19 came from the Chippenham Urban District, 13 from Chip-

penham Rural District, and 20 from Devizes District. Of the Scarletina cases, all the 19 came from the Chippenham Rural District. There were 4 deaths.

During July and August the Hospital was painted both outside and inside throughout. A ceiling was put up in the washhouse, and a new ironing table was erected. An Eagle range has been put up in the kitchen. The rain water tank has provided a good supply of water, which has been found most useful and economical in the laundry. The Thresh disinfecter is working satisfactorily.

Your Committee have become subscribers to the Clinical Research Association. This enables us to have bacteriological examination of the throat made before any child, convalescent from Diphtheria, is discharged from the Hospital.

The staff consists of a Matron, who is a certified nurse, an Assistant Nurse, one wardsmaid, one laundress, one cook; extra nurses are obtained from Nursing Homes and other Institutions when required. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she still continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the North Wilts Needlework Guild, who send us through The Honbl. Lady Neeld, a nice parcel of children's woollen garments; also to the Wilts and Berks Toy Guild who sends us toys at Christmas. Children's clothes are most useful, the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find garments for the little ones when they are about to leave the warm wards for their draughty cottage homes.

Factories and Workshops. An inspection has been made of all factories and workshops, which were found in good order. A report of these has been sent to the Home Office.

Attendance. I have attended every meeting of your Board, also the meetings of the Isolation Hospital Committee, and the meetings of the Housing and Town Planning Act Committee.

Before closing my report, I should wish to thank Mr. Rhodes for the assistance he has been to me, and the energy he has shown in discharging the various duties of his office since his appointment.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, M.D., B.A.

February, 1915.